

## JAB AT CHINA Biden recognises two Pacific nations

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden said the United States officially recognised the Pacific nations of Cook Islands and Niue yesterday, as he hosted regional leaders in a bid to wrest influence from China.

The announcement came at the start of a summit with the 18-member Pacific Islands Forum, where US officials said the president was announcing a more assertive American stance in the region.

Biden said in statements that Washington recognised the Cook Islands and Niue as "sovereign and independent" states and would establish diplomatic relations with both.



The move would help maintain a "free and open Indo-Pacific region," said Biden.

Biden added that the deals to recognise the two nations would also help curb illegal fishing, deal with climate change in a vulnerable region and boost economic growth.

The Cook Islands and Niue together have fewer than 20,000 inhabitants but constitute a sprawling economic zone in the South Pacific. Both are self-governing nations in "free association" with New Zealand.

After decades of being treated as a relative backwater, South Pacific has become an important arena for competition between the US and China.



Migrants from Venezuela walk through a hole in the razor wire cut by US Border Patrol agents after they crossed the Rio Grande to Eagle Pass, Texas, on Sunday. Dozens of migrants arrived at the US-Mexico border, hoping to be allowed into the United States, with US border forces reporting 1.8 million encounters with migrants in the last 12 months.

PHOTO: AFP

## Russian strike damages Odesa port infrastructure

Ukraine says Russian Black Sea fleet commander killed in attack

REUTERS

An overnight Russian air strike on the southern Ukrainian region of Odesa caused "significant damage" to port infrastructure and destroyed some grain storage facilities, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

No deaths were reported in the attack on Odesa, but at least one person was killed in a separate Russian air strike on the town of Beryslav in the southern region of Kherson region, regional governor Oleksandr Prokudin said.

"Another massive attack on Odesa! ... The attack resulted in the destruction of grain storage facilities and significant damage to the seaport," Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, economy minister, said on X.

Oleh Kiper, the Odesa region governor, said the facilities that

were hit had almost 1,000 tonnes of grain in storage.

Russia's defence ministry also reported Ukrainian attacks overnight, saying drones were shot down over the northwestern part of the Black Sea, over Crimea, and over the Russian regions of Kursk and Belgorod regions. It mentioned no deaths.

The Russian attack on Odesa was the latest in a series of missile and drone strikes which Kyiv says are intended to prevent Ukraine, a major grain producer and exporter, shipping its agricultural products to the world.

Ukrainian air defences destroyed 19 Iranian-made Shahed drones and 11 cruise missiles overnight, the vast majority of them were directed at the Odesa region, the military said.

Meanwhile, Ukraine claimed

yesterday it had killed the commander of Russia's Black Sea fleet in an unprecedented missile strike on the naval headquarters in the annexed Crimean peninsula last week.

It marked a major blow for Moscow, which has suffered a string of attacks on the strategically important port of Sevastopol in recent months.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday said his army had taken delivery of US Abrams battle tanks, boosting Kyiv's forces in their slow-moving counteroffensive against Russian troops.

Ukraine and the United States also signed a memorandum of understanding under which Kyiv will receive up to \$522 for strengthening the resilience of the Ukrainian energy system.



The commission reiterates its deep concern at the scale and gravity of violations and corresponding crimes that have been committed in Ukraine by Russian armed forces.

Erik Mose, chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, tells UN Human Rights Council

## DISPUTED SHOAL

## Philippines removes Chinese barrier

REUTERS, Manila

The Philippines said yesterday it executed a "special operation" to remove a floating barrier installed by China at a prime fishing patch in the South China Sea, a move that could stoke tension after a years-long detente in Asia's most disputed waters.

The Philippines expressed outrage on Sunday and shared images of Chinese coastguard policing a long, ball-buoy barrier near the Scarborough Shoal, a rocky outcrop 200 km (124 miles) from the Philippines and the site of years of intermittent flare-ups over sovereignty and fishing rights. Hours after the

national security adviser had vowed to take action, the Philippine coastguard said it had removed the floating cordon, at the behest of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and his special task force on the South China Sea. "The barrier posed a hazard to navigation, a clear violation of international law. It also hinders the conduct of fishing and livelihood activities of Filipino fisherfolk," it said in a statement, describing the shoal as "an integral part of the Philippine national territory".

## 2024 LOK SABHA POLLS

## India's AIADMK snaps ties with BJP-led alliance

NDTV ONLINE

Tamil Nadu's AIADMK has snapped ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance - just months before the national election - amid a row over comments by the latter party's state boss, K Annamalai. The break-up was announced by AIADMK Deputy General Secretary KP Munusamy after a resolution was passed unanimously at a meeting of MPs, MLAs and district heads at the party's head office in Chennai. At a meeting in Delhi on Saturday, the south Indian party stood firm on its demand - that Annamalai either apologise for remarks on the late former Chief Minister CN Annadurai, or be replaced with a "non-controversial leader".

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর  
উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, চুনারুগাট, হবিগঞ্জ  
www.lqed.gov.bd  
Date: 25.09.2023

Memo No. 46.02.3626.902.14.051.22-৫০৮  
e-Tender Notice No. 05/2023-24 (OTM)  
e-Tender is hereby invited through National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of the works	Tender publication date & time	Last date & time of submission & opening
01	873584	e-Tender/PEDP4/HAB/CHU/2023-2023/W-14-02254	Construction of Boundary wall & Gate Basulla, Chandpur Bostl Adarsha, Ghonashyampur & Haptapar haor GPS under Chunarughat, Habiganj.	26-09-2023 11:00am	08-10-2023 1:30pm
02	875405	e-Tender/PEDP4/HAB/CHU/2023-24/W-14-02999	Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate of Ubahata Government Primary School Chunarughat, Habiganj.	26-09-2023 11:00am	11-10-2023 1:30pm
03	875403	e-Tender/PEDP4/HBG/CHU/2023-23/W-15.0838	Construction of Head Teacher's Room with attached toilet of Chunarughat Govt. Primary School under PEDP4 Chunarughat Habiganj.	26-09-2023 11:00am	11-10-2023 1:30pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies are allowed. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Any other conditions for this tender is stated in TDS. Interested tenderers may communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Dipak Kumar Das  
Upazila Engineer  
Chunarughat, Habiganj  
Phone: 01706-161662  
ue.chunarughat@lqed.gov.bd

GD-1482

## Missing Pak journo turned promoter of Imran returns home

REUTERS, Lahore

A prominent Pakistani TV journalist turned promoter of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's political party returned home yesterday, police and his lawyer said, giving no indication of where he had been since he disappeared in May.

A court last week gave the police until September 26 to recover Imran Riaz, a social media influencer popular with Khan's followers, or face legal action.

Police had told the court he was not in their custody or being held by intelligence agencies. Riaz, who has more than five million followers on X, formerly known as Twitter, had taken on the Pakistani military and its intelligence agencies after Khan was removed from power in April 2022 and blamed the army for his ouster.

The latest criticism by Riaz of the military included serious accusations made without producing evidence.

Local police have said they detained him in the eastern city of Sialkot on May 11, two days after Khan's supporters attacked military installations as the former leader was arrested.

## INDIA-CANADA ROW

## Punjab's Sikhs fear backlash from diplomatic spat

REUTERS, Bharsinghpura

A bitter row between India and Canada over the murder of a Sikh separatist is being felt in Punjab, where some Sikhs fear both a backlash from India's Hindu-nationalist government and a threat to their prospects for a better life in North America.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a plumber who left the north Indian state a quarter-century ago and became a Canadian citizen, was shot dead in June outside a temple in a Vancouver suburb where he was a separatist leader among the many Sikhs living there.

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau said last week Ottawa had "credible allegations" that Indian government agents may be linked to the killing.

In the village of Bharsinghpura, Hardeep's uncle, Himmat Singh Nijjar, 79, said locals "think it was very brave of Trudeau" to accuse Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government of potential involvement in the killing. The elder Nijjar said he is worried about deteriorating relations with Canada and declining economic prospects in Punjab.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Cultural Affairs  
Aitihashik Rose Garden-er Pratnatattik Samsker-Samrakhan  
Ebm Dhaka Mahanagar Jadughar Sthapan  
Bangladesh National Museum  
Shahbag, Dhaka-1000  
Date: 25/09/2023

Memo No. 43.22.0000.034.02.021.22.1228  
e-Tender Notice  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procuring of the following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Tender opening & closing date & time
01	875796	Supply of A.C equipments and accessories for Dhaka Metropolitan Museum.	11-Oct-2023 15:00:00
02	879291	Supply Furniture for Dhaka Metropolitan Museum.	11-Oct-2023 15:00:00
03	879749	Supply Fire-extinguishing equipment for Dhaka Metropolitan Museum.	11-Oct-2023 15:00:00
04	879764	Display & Interior works for Dhaka Metropolitan Museum.	11-Oct-2023 16:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System on <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>. All information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) and for more details please contact support desk contact numbers.

Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik  
Keeper (A.M.M.) & Deputy Project Director  
Aitihashik Rose Garden-er Pratnatattik  
Samsker-Samrakhan Ebm Dhaka  
Mahanagar Jadughar Sthapan  
Ahsan Manzil Museum  
Phone: 02-57391122

GD-1481

Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd  
Head Office, BDBL Bhaban  
8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000  
IT Operation Department  
Invitation for Tender  
Reference: 11.2/319/ Date: 24/09/2023  
Tender is invited for Purchase of outsourcing service to provide Data Center and other support (365 days 24/7) for 3 (three) years. Necessary informations are given below:

01.	Procuring entity	IT Operation Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, BDBL Bhaban (Level-06), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
02.	Procurement method	Through Open Tendering Method (OTM) of Public Procurement Rules, 2008 and The Public Procurement Act, 2006 (Corrected up to 2019)
03.	Invitation for Tender No.	BDBL/ITOD/OTM/01
04.	Source of funds	BDBL own fund.
05.	Brief description of the goods and services	Tender is invited for Purchase of outsourcing service to provide Data Center and other support (365 days 24/7) for 3 (three) years.
06.	Work description	- On-site 1st level operation of the facilities items like Precision Air Conditioner (PAC), Comfort Air Conditioner (CAC), VESDA System, Fire Detection, Auto Fire Suppression, Online UPS, AVR, Power Monitoring, Environment Monitoring and specially Data Center and other Services. - Hourly or schedule-wise equipment log collection. - Reporting to the authorized personnel of Bank. - Other documentation maintaining works. - Other Hardware and software related services as per requirement.
07.	Name & address of receiving tender document	IT Operation Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, BDL Bhaban (Level-06), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
08.	Last date and time for selling tender schedule	12/10/2023 up to office hour.
09.	Last date and time for submission	15/10/2023 up to 03.00pm.
10.	Date, time and place for tender opening	All Tenders will be opened at IT Operation Department, Head Office, Dhaka on 15/10/2023 at 03.30pm (Intending tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening of tender).
11.	Eligibility of tenderer	<b>Qualifications</b> - Educational qualification: Minimum Diploma Engineer (Computer Science/Technology, Electrical/Electronics or equivalent) from any Government Polytechnic Institute. But a minimum of one person must have a diploma in Computer Science. - Serviced Engineer should be an expert in the above-described services. - Attested copies of all certificates must be given. - Resume of each service Engineer must be given. <b>Other requirements</b> ● Bidder must submit company profile with all certification. ● Up-to-date income tax paying certificate; ● Up-to-date VAT certificate. ● Bidder must have at least 03 (three) years' experience in providing outsourcing service to Data Center and other related support. ● A declaration that the bidder has not been blacklisted/debarred by any government agency must be submitted. ● Up-to-date trade licences certificate. ● Attested copy of all educational certificate of Service Engineer.
12.	Tender security	Tk. 1,00,000.00 (one lac). Tender security money only will be required in the form of Pay Order (refundable) in favor of Bangladesh Development Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.
13.	Price of tender schedule	Tk. 1,000 (Taka one thousand) will be required in the form of Pay Order (non-refundable)

BDBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender either in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever. If occur any government holiday then the tender opening date will be shifted to next working day.

Saifuddin Ahmad  
Deputy General Manager  
IT Operation Department  
☎: 02-57160451

GD-1478